

The Flying Badger

440th Airlift Wing, General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee Wisconsin

May 2004 Volume 56, No. 5



Core Values - Service before Self
see page 8



photo by AIC Chris Hibben

Lt. Col. Thomas Kittler recently returned from the AOR and reflects upon the great sacrifice the men and women of the 440th are making every day.

See Page 8

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May 2004 Volume 56 Number 5

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Opportunities await for deserving Airmen

by Chief Master Sgt. Mark Biedenbender
440th Airlift Wing

The main role of enlisted leaders is to help educate our enlisted force so they are prepared for future challenges and changes. It all starts by recognizing the importance of giving your enlisted members the chance to attend things like the Headquarters AFRC Orientation at the Pentagon. Everyone who has attended this course has found it to be informative and rewarding. It gives them a better understanding of their role in the Air Force and how they can affect positive change.

Currently, the 440th has a shadow program that gives Airmen or NCOs the chance to shadow a senior NCO or chief from another organization. The shadow program provides them the chance to see what it is like to be in Services, the Medical Squadron, or Security Forces, or what it is like to be a flight engineer, loadmaster, or aircraft mechanic. You name the AFSC and if we have it at the 440th you can request to shadow a person from that AFSC. In the year this program has been up and running we only had one person ask for this opportunity. This is an outstanding way to find out more about another AFSC.

Enlisted leaders and supervisors need to find time in their already full schedules to talk with our young airmen and NCOs. We need to find out what issues they have and then also ask them what they see as a solution. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at their response. Most of our young Airmen want to be part of the solution to problems. In preparing for our last military ball, I discovered that we have over 300 E1 – E4s assigned to the 440th. That number will continue to grow.

I get daily reminders here at my deployed location, about how well, and quickly, the Air Force can adapt and change. Seeing other military branches and foreign nationals that can't adapt

and change as quickly as we can makes me thankful for the Air Force system. Keeping that flexibility makes it important to take every opportunity to expose the Airmen, NCOs and senior NCOs in our units to the big picture. The more they know and understand the better they will be equipped to



deal with change – positive change. Think what that means to every supervisor and NCOIC. Your time spent educating young Airmen and NCOs is only going to increase. When I say educate I'm not talking about AFSC training, I'm talking about what it takes to survive deployments, TDY travel and taking the initiative when faced with unexpected challenges in strange places. More and more of our Airmen have to deploy by themselves. If we do not do a good job preparing them to meet these challenges we have failed them. In the end, it all boils down to caring enough about your troops to take whatever time is necessary to help them excel in every aspect of being an Airman.

I've talked many times about the opportunities we have to expose Airmen to the big picture and I know there are numerous others. The next time you head out to do something, take a minute and look for an Airman or young NCO that could learn from what you are about to do. Even though it may take a few extra minutes, it will pay big rewards later. Be part of the future of the 440th by helping to grow enlisted leadership that will be here long after you are gone.

CSAF says "That's Airman with a capital 'A'"

By Gen. John P. Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

I am an Airman.

Note that's with a capital "A." It's just one letter at the beginning of the word, but it signifies a great deal. The reason it is capitalized is simple: Airmen in the United States Air Force are the heart and soul of our unique fighting force, and should be identified by a proper noun.

As young children, when we began to read, we learned a capital letter at the front of a word signified something special or important — like our own name, our hometown, and our country. And this was reinforced through our education and professional life. When we see a capital letter, our minds automatically emphasize that word, and we bestow an increased importance on that person, place, or thing. It is time to formally add our profession to that list of important and special nouns.

You may have seen or heard something about

my guidance to capitalize the word "Airman." It is appropriate to do so, in recognition of our rich history, and to emphasize our unparalleled role in the defense of America.

Our Air Force is the finest air and space force in the world because of the generations of professional Airmen that have devoted their lives to dominating the skies. Capitalizing the word "Airman" recognizes their historic achievements and signifies our unique contributions to fighting and winning America's wars. It shows we've earned the respect a proper name imparts.

For 38 years of my life, I've been proud to wear the uniform of the United States Air Force. And, whether you've worn it as long as I have or just recently joined our team, I know we all feel the same sense of pride. Regardless of the uniform we wear, the specialty we hold, the badge over our pocket, and whether we are active duty, Guard, Reserve, or civilian, first and foremost, we are Airmen.

We are one Air Force and we are Airmen.

Balancing family and mission during deployment: One family's journey of love and support

By Maj. Ann Peru Knabe

While many of our reservists are deployed overseas supporting the mission, the unsung heroes are typically closer to home. Such is the case of Sandra Safer, wife of Senior Master Sgt. Tom Safer.

"I honestly think Sandy had it harder than me when I was gone," Safer said, referring to his wife. "I deployed for three months, and knew I would be concentrating on my one job — the mission. Sandy was back home juggling the kids, their school, her job, and all of the activities involved in maintaining a household."

The Safers consider themselves well-prepared for deployment. Safer is an Air Reserve Technician with the 440th Maintenance Squadron, serving in a key position as maintenance flight chief. His activation was no surprise, as C-130 units continue to play a critical role in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were ready for this," said Safer, who initially thought he would be gone for at least one year. "Previously I was the person who organized the bills and finances, and I showed

Sandy where everything was so she could easily pick this up when I left." The reservist also arranged for family and friends to assist Sandy with household tasks like shoveling snow and mowing the lawn, and reviewed critical family documents like insurance and trust policies.

The children were also told "Daddy" would be leaving. According to Safer, 5-year-old Madysen seemed to understand that her father was leaving for a period of time, while 3-year old Sam didn't really comprehend the situation.

"Maddy would ask where I was going and what I was doing," Safer said. "I would explain in simple terms that I was going away for work. More importantly, I assured the kids that I would be coming back, and would always be there for them."

Sandy credits frequent communication as a necessary tool in keeping the family relationships alive.

"We loved it when Tom called," she said. "The kids would ask him when he was coming back, and find out what he did that day. In turn, he would ask the kids how they were, and find out how school went, showing interest in their lives."

The couple talked about every four days, and e-mailed each other as often as possible. "The pictures were a lifesaver," said Sandy, referring to emailed pictures. "Tom would send photos, and I could show the kids, and we felt a lot closer to him because of it."

Sandy also sent photos of the family to Safer. While in the desert, Safer enjoyed looking at holiday photos and pictures of the kids. Sandy sent his favorite food, and other personal items so he felt connected to his family.

"She sent pictures the kids drew, and I put the kids' drawings up in my cubicle and in my tent," he said. "This helped me feel like part of them was with me even though I was thousands of miles from home."

Safer also mailed packages back home, sending stuffed animals, small toys, photos and letters for his family.

The family was thrilled when the wing implemented a rotation in and out of Kuwait to relieve reservists. Tom returned home after 90 days of duty. After spending some time working at home station, he will return overseas to replace coworkers.

Yet, the rotational plan is bittersweet.

"Maddy knows I have to go back to the desert," he said. "The other day I asked her why she was crying, and she said she was sad because her dad was going to leave again."

He described the incident as "heartbreaking," and responded in the way he knew best — comforting his daughter, hugging her and repeatedly telling her he loved her.

Desert duty makes people look at their lives with new perspective about what matters most to them. "When I was gone, I realized how trivial the little things in life are. I suddenly saw



photos by Tech. Sgt. Bob Sommer

Above, Senior Master Sgt. Tom Safer and his 3-year old son Sam. Right, Safer's 5-year old daughter Madysen.

how important it is for me to take time to go to the park with my kids, or just hang out with my family. I realized the little chores could go on hold, and my kids weren't going to be small forever."

The Safers offer simple, but insightful, advice to reserve families facing activation. "Keep the communication going," he said. "It's the e-mail, the cards and the phone calls that kept that relationship alive and exciting."

Sandy maintains spouses must remain strong and positive — especially if there are children involved. "We owe it to our kids to keep a positive attitude," she said. She suggests spouses try to connect with other people in similar circumstances for moral support. "It was really helpful to keep in touch with other people going through the same thing," she explained. "I often got together with other wives and moms to simply talk, and this helped us all."

As Safer's second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom grows closer, the family does not face it with the fear and uncertainty involved in the first deployment. "We are stronger than ever," Safer said. "And we know the secrets to staying connected — lots of communication and mutual support."



440th provides 'slice' of heaven to families

by Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Green
440th Airlift Control Flight

Nearly 40 children took part April 29, in an event that included one of America's favorite foods, pizza. Many children of deployed wing members arrived at the base to participate in a party just for them. The event was called "Pizza with the Chief". This party allowed the mothers and fathers to let their kids go have fun, while they got together to share their experiences while their significant others are deployed.

The kids got a "bus ride" around the base and then were dropped off at the 34th Aerial Port Squadron where they toured a fire truck and "hung out" with the base firefighters. Then they went to the parachute packing room where they were able to climb into aircraft life rafts, help pack airdrop parachutes, see the specialized aircrew equipment in use, and touch and feel the equipment that some of their parents are using while deployed.

"Pizza with the Chief" was organized in response to the last Family Readiness meeting in January when many kids came to the meeting and needed a place to go and just have fun. The spouses of deployed Reservists were there to meet with the wing Readiness team and discuss important issues and concerns about the activation and deployment of their significant others.

The organizer of "Pizza with the Chief" was Senior Master Sgt. Carmon Francher. Chief Master Sgts. Mike Semenak and Les Pfeffer, Senior Master Sgt. Bud Henderson, and Tech. Sgt. Jesus Briseno of the 34 APS, handled the activities at the aerial port. Sue Green, Kelly Green and many others assisted with side events including helping with the pizza party.



Submitted photo

"Pizza with the Chief" is one of the things that those of us at home can do to ease some of the burdens that will occur during this activation/deployment of our wing members. The absence of a father or mother for an extended period of time is difficult, especially for the young children. If there is anything we can do for these kids to let them know how important they are, just a simple little thing like "Pizza with the Chief" makes a difference, and when we make it easier for them, then it will certainly make us big kids feel good too. It certainly made me feel good! "Wish I had some of that pizza now," writes deployed reservist Chief Master Sgt Gerald Green, 440 Airlift Control Flight, pictured above at the local pizza joint in the AOR.

New Family Readiness Director eagerly accepts position

by Heidi Bultman

Susan Knauer, pictured at right, became the new Family Readiness director March 9. She took over the position from Tech. Sgt. Tina Boyle, who recently ended a two-year activation. Knauer comes to the 440th from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, where she served for four years as an Air Force Aid Society officer.

As Family Readiness director, Knauer is tasked with developing and running programs to meet the needs of reservists and their families. Knauer is excited about her new position because she loves working with people. Overall, Knauer said she has been deeply impressed with all the activities Family Readiness has organized and was particularly proud of the "Pizza with the Chief" activity. Knauer said, "I am proud of the deployed troops because their sacrifices benefit all of us." She wants to repay reservists by assisting their families. For Knauer and her husband the move to Wisconsin was bittersweet because she is closer to members of her family who live in this area, but also had to leave members of her family behind in Alaska.

Knauer is looking forward to meeting 440th employees, reservists and their families. She wants reservists and their families to know the Family Readiness door is always open for them. Family Readiness is in Bldg. 102, Rm. 121 and Knauer can be reached at 482-5733.



photo by JoAnn Lindner

Drop Zone expansion expected to start in spring

by Staff Sgt. Steve Staedler

Construction is expected to begin later this spring on a \$200,000 expansion project of the 440th Air-lift Wing's club, The Drop Zone.

The 1,330 square foot addition will allow the club to book larger events such as unit functions and catered parties, 440th Services Director Ron Knutson said.

"We're currently turning down events that, when the addition is built, we won't have to turn down," he said.

The expansion calls for a 19x70-foot addition to the west end of the existing building, which measures about 3,400 square feet. Much of the west-facing wall, from the rest rooms to the start of the bar, will be removed and opened up as part of the addition. Knutson said the addi-

tion will be used as a dining room. Subsequently the existing dining room will be renovated into a game room – an issue Knutson and the Club Advisory Committee has been looking to start for some time.

The expansion project has been in the works for the past several years, and originally started out as a plan to simply add a small game room. But as the project continued to evolve a decision was made to build a larger addition, while staying within the targeted budget.

In addition to the new dining room expansion, The Drop Zone's rest rooms will be upgraded in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and a new freezer and walk-in cooler will be added.

Knutson said construction will take five to six months to complete,

and hopes the club will be back open for business by the end of the year.

During construction, the club will remain open but at a different location which has not yet been announced.

More than 1,000 members belong to The Drop Zone – which is "one of the most profitable clubs in the Reserve command," Knutson said. Although the recent deployment of several hundred wing members has taken a minor toll on the club's bottom line, Knutson said its overall strong membership is the driving force making the expansion project a reality.

"None of this is possible without the customers," he said. "This is thanks to our members that we're able to do this, and in doing this we're hoping to give them more."

Sticker Shock



photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Kuminecz

Army National Guard Staff Sgt. Shalayne Anderson directs a reservist to get an updated vehicle registration sticker for his car. Reservists are reminded to check their vehicle to ensure their sticker is up to date or get their vehicle properly registered if they have not yet done so. Reservists need a valid driver's license, military identification card, proof of automotive insurance and registration and a permanent license plate to obtain a base vehicle registration sticker. For more information, call (414) 482-5031.

440 VWAP PROGRAM

WHAT

Victim Witness Assistance Program

PURPOSE

Mitigate financial, physical and psychological hardships from crime

Foster cooperation of victims and witnesses in the military justice system

Ensure best efforts are made to accord victims certain rights

Coordinate with and refer to local victim and witness service organizations

RIGHTS OF VICTIMS

To be treated with fairness and respect

To reasonable protection

To receive notification of court-martial proceedings

To be present at all court-martial proceedings if the judge allows

To confer with trial counsel on the case

To appropriate restitution when available

To information about conviction, sentencing, confinement and release

CONTACT

Maj. Jeremy Weber

UTA weekends and on-call
Master Sgt. Jessica Johnson
Tech. Sgt. Julie Amundson

(414) 482-5211

There's no lifting involved with flying... Then what's that 80 pounds on my back?

by Staff Sgt. Steve Staedler

Aircrew members don't travel light.

When flying in harm's way, life support technicians from the 95th Airlift Squadron go to great lengths to ensure their pilots, navigators and loadmasters are prepared to survive for days in the elements if their mission doesn't go as planned.

Augmenting their flight suits are body armor, survival vest, radios and helmets with night vision goggles. Add a parachute and a one-man survival kit with raft, and aircrew members are wearing an extra 70 to 80 pounds of gear.

"You do work up a sweat," said Master Sgt. Sun Wing Leung, a 95th Airlift Wing loadmaster with more than 6,500 flight hours, "and you still have to perform on the airplane."

"Sometimes you feel like it's very hard to move. You have to be physically fit, that's why I'm glad the Air Force is making everyone do their pushups and crunches."

With carrying around all that extra weight, comfort somewhat goes out the cargo bay door.

"We have guys flying 12 to 14 hours a day and having all this stuff on, it won't make you a happy camper," said Senior Airman Dickson Amoah Jr., a life support technician with the 95th Airlift Squadron. "The main thing is we try to make them as comfortable as possible because they are flying long days."

The mesh net survival vest alone carries more than \$1,000 in supplies and equipment, such as flares, matches, water and a radio. The helmet with night vision goggles alone is valued at several thousand dollars.

In addition to preparing and training aircrew members on the survival gear, Life Support also conducts other survival skills such as water survival training.

"I really enjoy my job," Amoah said. "You are responsible for these people coming back home safe, and it makes you feel good."



Photo by A1C Chris Hibben

Above are the items worn by the 440th flight crews during missions in the AOR. They include a helmet with night vision goggles, parachute, one man survival kit with raft, body armor, survival vest, and a radio. So what is included in the mesh net survival vest? MK-13 flare, AP25S flare, tourniquet, first aid kit, pocket knife, survival knife, whistle, insect repellent, camouflage paint kit, matches, 2X3 mirror, compass, water kit, water storage bag, radio, radio batteries, AFTTP survival book, strobe light, AA batteries, sunglasses, and a fire starting kit.

Modernized AFRC alcohol-drug abuse prevention campaign

'TRUE BLUE' to debut at Gen. Mitchell ARS May 1-2

by Master Sgt. Bob Reeve

General Mitchell ARS will be the site during the May UTA for the rollout of AFRC's TRUE BLUE campaign, an alcohol-drug abuse prevention and lifestyle improvement awareness and education initiative.

All wing members are encouraged to visit the TRUE BLUE display in the wing auditorium, Bldg. 102, on Saturday or Sunday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. - for more reasons than one. Our base is essentially a test market for the campaign. TRUE BLUE, at this point, is tantamount to a rough draft of a book - it's written but subject to change.

Those at AFRC headquarters who developed TRUE BLUE want 440th members to view the display, to hopefully take away some valuable, useful information, and to offer comments, suggestions and constructive criticism on how the content and presentation might be improved. It will be an extraordinary opportunity for wing members to influence the final character of one of AFRC's showcase programs. Based on input from 440th reservists, the program will be tweaked and refined and then introduced to the rest of AFRC later this year.

FAMILY

TRUE BLUE emphasizes four aspects of life, according to Don Jenrette Jr., AFRC Substance Abuse Education and Prevention coordinator. They are: family, health, career and leadership/work force. The display will have a booth for each of those themes and another booth with four laptop computers linked to a part of what eventually will be the TRUE BLUE website. A five-minute video will be shown on a large screen and will repeat throughout each day. Jenrette and Master Sgt. Janet McKnight, 440th Drug Demand Reduction Program coordinator, will be on hand to offer insight and answer questions. Guest speakers are also scheduled during this two-day event. Informational handouts will be there, as will survey forms for those who wish to make their reactions to the program known. Snacks and souvenir items will be available.

Jenrette, who is based at Robins AFB, Ga., and is a doctoral candidate in education at the University of Georgia, said TRUE BLUE - which has been months in the making - is unique to AFRC.

"No other major command (including

HEALTH



Don Jenrette, True Blue coordinator, and Master Sgt. Janet McKnight, 440th Medical Squadron, will be available to offer insight and answer questions.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Staedler

active duty) has attempted to launch this kind of program," he said. "Other commands typically aim only at youth through a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

"Based on input from 440th reservists, the program will be tweaked and refined and then introduced to the rest of AFRC later this year."

TRUE BLUE is targeted to adults."

The essence of TRUE BLUE, Jenrette said, is to change people's behavior where appropriate - "to make a life change." It's not simply about trying to get AFRC alcohol and drug abusers to quit their bad habits but to help all AFRC members improve their quality of life in the four categories cited above. Air Force core values are stressed, too.

"Does AFRC really have a drug problem?" Jenrette asked rhetorically. He noted that the command conducts random drug testing on 25 percent of its members each year, a percentage much lower than that of the other services. He said that 68 AFRC members (____ at Gen. Mitchell ARS) were discharged from service last year following a "positive" drug test. The

CAREER

typical AFRC member, he said, is a 37-year-old Caucasian male technical sergeant with 17 years of service; that profile presumably is representative of those who were discharged.

Jenrette said that TRUE BLUE represents a revamping and modernization of AFRC's erstwhile "Make America Drug Free" campaign.

"It used to be that we told people not to abuse alcohol and drugs, gave them a trinket and sent them on their way," he said. "We're taking it out of that 1950s and '60s mentality and bringing it into the 21st century."

Jenrette inferred that AFRC went to lengths to keep its new program from being trivial, mundane or run-of-the-mill but instead to be candid, straightforward and hard-hitting. Based on his description, the display 440th reservists will see - which will virtually fill the auditorium - will be not only informative but also visually stimulating

LEADERSHIP/WORKFORCE



"Campaign name selection, TRUE BLUE, was ultimately selected as the name because it denotes commitment and loyalty and the color signifies the Air Force," said Jenrette.

Service Before Self...

The second Air Force core value means putting the needs of the Air Force and the mission above your own

by Lt. Col. Thomas Kittler
Commander, 95th Airlift Squadron

“Service Before Self,” the second Air Force core value, has a special meaning for the members of the 440th Airlift Wing deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The deployed flyers, maintainers and supporters live this core value every day. It’s part of everything they do. Simply said, they are serving their country before themselves. They’ve stepped up and are doing their duty, far from home and family, so that the freedoms we enjoy will remain, and be extended to formerly oppressed people. They, their families and their employers are all sharing in this sacrifice.

Still, our Citizen Airmen don’t come away from the experience without benefit. The benefit is nothing material. Nothing material can make up for missing a child grow up or not having a spouse nearby when you need a hug or a kiss. It’s what remains in the heart after a challenge like this deployment. Here’s a copy (and yes, I’ve shared this before) of a short notice that was written in the *New Yorker* many years ago. For me, it captures how this “Service before Self” pays us back...

“Once at a dinner party I was asked by a woman what on earth I had ever seen in military life. I couldn’t answer her of course. I couldn’t summon it all, the distant places, the comradeship, the idealism, the youth. I couldn’t tell about flying over the islands long ago, seeing them rise in the blue distance wreathed in legend, the ring of white surf around them. Or the cities, Shanghai and Tokyo, Amsterdam and Venice, gunnery camps in North Africa and forgotten colonies of Rome along the shore. I couldn’t tell her about the brilliant group commanders or flying with men who later became famous, the days and days of boredom and moments of pure ecstasy, of walking out to the parked planes in the early morning or coming in at dusk when the wind had died to make the last landing of the day and the mobile control officer giving two quick clicks of the mike to confirm: grease job. To fly with the thirty year old veterans and finally the right to lead yourself, flights, squadrons, a few times the entire group. The great days of youth when you are mispronouncing foreign words and trading dreams.”

This is but a little payback for our duty. It’s these shared feelings and experiences that are our just reward for “Service Before Self”.



photo by A1C Chris Hibben

Lt. Col Kittler recently returned from the AOR where he acted as the 386th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander. As of the publication of this issue he will have returned to fulfill the same role.

Air Force core values
INTEGRITY
SERVICE BEFORE SELF
EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

Armed Forces Week observed for 50 years in Wisconsin

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Band Concert

The first scheduled event for Milwaukee's Armed Forces Week is the military band concert in the Pabst Theater sponsored by the 84th Division, U.S. Army Reserve. Call the Pabst Theater box office (414) 286-3663 for performance information.

MONDAY, MAY 10

ESGR Breakfast with the Boss, and the Bong Award

Employers are invited to a special breakfast with local representatives of the Department of Defense who will answer questions and discuss concerns regarding employment of members of the Guard and Reserve. The breakfast is also a chance to recognize outstanding enlisted members of the Milwaukee military community with the annual Major Richard I. Bong Award. The Bong award is named for the Poplar, Wis., native who was the top scoring U.S. fighter pilot in World War II. The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave. The guest speaker will be Mr. Marty Castello, Miller Brewing. Contact Lt. Col. Jim Waters at (414) 944-8539 for more information.

Wisconsin Club Armed Forces Dinner

This year marks the 25th anniversary of this premier event in Milwaukee's celebration of Armed Forces Week, sponsored by the 440th Airlift Wing. Located in the prestigious Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Ave. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner and program to follow at 7 p.m. Attendance is by invitation only due to the amount of seating the Wisconsin Club can accommodate. Tickets are \$49 per person. Ticket sales end May 3. Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, the vice commander of Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo., will be the honored guest speaker. The United States Air Force Strolling Strings will provide featured entertainment for the evening. Grand finale is the Wisconsin Club's famous "Dessert Fantasia." Contact Ms. Liz Stoeckmann at (414) 482-5481 for more details.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Rotary Club Luncheon

The luncheon starts at noon in the Wisconsin War Memorial Center, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. Contact Tom Plantenberg at (414) 805-2676 for information.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Kiwanis Club Luncheon

The luncheon starts at noon in the Wisconsin War Memorial Center, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive. The cost is \$12. Ronald J. Kurth, Ph. D., Rear Admiral USN (Ret) from St. Johns Military Academy will be the guest speaker. Contact the Kiwanis Club at (414) 276-1331 for details.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Eagles Club Luncheon and Lance Sijan Award

The Sijan Award is presented annually by the Eagles Club in honor of Captain Lance P. Sijan, an Air Force officer from Milwaukee who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions while a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, where he died in captivity. This year's recipient is Lt. Col. James Waters, executive officer, for the 128th Air Refueling Wing. The luncheon begins at noon in the Porterhouse Restaurant, 800 W. Layton Ave. Call the Eagles Club (414) 529-2183 or the Porterhouse Restaurant (414) 744-1750 for more information.

Civic Dinner Dance at the 440th Airlift Wing

The 440th Airlift Wing and the south shore communities co-host this event. This event will feature entertainment by Night Wing of the United States Air Force Heartland of America Band, Offutt AFB, Neb. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner and program to follow at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$25. Ticket sales are limited, and sales end May 3.



Contact one of the chambers and associations of commerce from Cudahy, Oak Creek, St. Francis and South Milwaukee or call Ms. Ann Skarban at (414) 482-5482 for ticket information.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

Navy League Brunch and Navy Recruit Graduation Ceremony

The U.S. Navy Recruit brunch and graduation ceremony will be held in the Midwest Express Center in downtown Milwaukee.

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Armed Forces Day!

"Armed Forces Day at Miller Park" where the Milwaukee Brewers baseball club is offering discount tickets to the game against the Atlanta Braves. The game will start at 6:05 p.m. Call Capt. Erika Cashin, (414) 482-6196 for information on the reenlistment ceremony that will precede the game, and for ticket information. Tickets may also be ordered from the U.S. Coast Guard at (414) 747-7191, or DJordan@grumilwaukee.uscg.mil

Harley-Davidson American Legion Ride

The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve is sponsoring a Harley-Davidson ride with the American Legion. For details on the ride call the USMCR at (414) 481-3860.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 15-16

Military Display

Saturday and Sunday the 128th Air Refueling Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, will host the annual military display of modern and classic aircraft, vehicles and equipment. This popular event is a chance to see the Air Force's latest fighters and bombers, alongside some historic World War II "warbirds" provided by members of the Oshkosh-based Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). All of the Armed Services will be represented in a wide variety of displays, booths, and exhibits. The weekend at Mitchell Field also includes free airplane flights for children ages 8-17 on a first come, first served basis, courtesy of the EAA's "Young Eagles" program. Admission and parking for the military display are free.

Parking is available at the Milwaukee Area Technical College South Campus, 6665 S. Howell Ave. Free shuttle buses will make the short round trip to Mitchell Field on a frequent basis. The military display will be open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day.

Newcomers

The 440th welcomes the following reservists to the wing:

MSgt. Barbara West	440 CES
TSgt. Melissa Binns	440 MSF
TSgt. Joseph Kolinski	95 AS
SSgt. Kathleen Finley	440 MXS
SSgt. Kim Veautour-Swensen	440 MDS
SSgt. Thomas Thomas	440 AW
SrA Edward Hermance	440 MDS
SrA Matthew Kennedy	440 OSF
SrA Naseim Morrar	440 CES
SrA Deanne Perez	440 AW
A1C Luke Borlee	440 AW
A1C Venigeo Gapastione	440 LRS
A1C Krzysztop Miszczak	440 SVF
Amn Shannon Savage	440 MDS
AB Jessica Nicholson	440 MDS
AB Ryah Silvernagel	440 MDS

PEP promotions

The following individuals have been promoted to the indicated rank:

SMSgt. Thomas Safer	440 MXS
MSgt. John Degroot	440 SCSS
MSgt. Donald Stephany	440 MXS
TSgt. Jason Drewitz	440 MXS
TSgt. Vincent Niemczyk	440 MOF

440th AW retirements

Lt. Col. Michael W. Boomgarden	440 AW
MSgt. John P. Dahlberg	440 ACF
TSgt. Richard E. Czerwinski	440 MXS
TSgt. Kim Millikin	34 APS
TSgt. Michael Plunkett	440 CES
TSgt. Tyrone P. Thompson	440 CES
SSgt. Mark D. Schinkowitch	440 CES

Chaplain services coming to a squadron near you – really!

The Chaplain's Office, in an attempt to become more visible to the 440th populace at large, will be conducting services at different locations around the base beginning with the May UTA.

Protestant services will be held at the Drop Zone, Sunday May 2, at 7:30 a.m. Roman Catholic mass has been canceled for the May UTA because Chaplain Frank Malloy will be deployed.

The Flying Badger will have a standing column with times and locations of services.

If your squadron would like to host, or if you have questions, contact the Chaplain's Office (414) 452-5225.

Air Force Times looking for "Airman of the Year"

The *Air Force Times* announced it is seeking nominations for its fourth annual "Airman of the Year" Award. The award will honor the Airman who best displayed unrecognized honor, valor and dedication to fellow Airmen and the community during 2003. The nominee, who unselfishly and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty, will be honored at a ceremony on Capitol Hill. Nominations and voting for the "Airman of the Year" will be done by service members themselves. Deadline for nominations is May 7. More information about the award can be found at www.airforcetimes.com/airman.

My support center is One Source

A new support hotline, Air Force One Source, is available to all military members and their families. Air Force One Source is a joint partnership with Family Support Centers and other agencies, and is staffed by qualified people 24 hours a day, every day.

Air Force One Source can answer nearly any question related to military or personal life. For example, preparing for a new baby, dealing with relationship issues, preparing for deployment or reunion, getting out of debt, buying a car – Air Force One Source will provide a customized response or direct a caller to an appropriate resource.

Web users can access www.airforceonesource.com to obtain information, view bulletin boards or e-mail your question to an Air Force One Source consultant.

The service is free and completely confidential. Calls can be instantly translated into more than 140 languages. Call Air Force One Source at 1-800-707-5784 or if calling from outside the United States, call 800-707-7844.

440th Spouse of the Year contest

The Family Readiness Office is accepting nominations for the 4th annual Spouse of the Year Award. To nominate an individual for the award you must submit a typed package, to include the following information: participation in base and community activities, voluntary service in Air Force related organizations and activities, voluntary service in community related organizations and activities, what has the person done that makes her or him an outstanding military spouse, in your eyes?

Nominations must include facts and specific accomplishments that clearly state the individual's contributions.

All nominations received will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select the winner. The announcement will be made at the Family Day Picnic in August. For more information, please contact Susan Knauer at (920) 482-5424.

New law brings relief for college students serving their country

The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act (HEROES) of 2003 has been passed as H.R. 1412 and became Public Law 108-76. You can read this act in its entirety at <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

The Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003 states that the Secretary of Education may waive or modify any statutory or regulatory provision applicable to the student financial assistance program under Title IV, as the secretary deems necessary in connection with a war or other military operations or national emergency. The ultimate aim of this act is to ensure that service members who are financial aid recipients are not placed in a worse position financially because of their military status. If you are being mobilized or deployed, you should advise all holders of your student loans as soon as possible. Loan holders should be able to provide you with some level of relief, such as deferment or forbearance. Contact your education services specialist or counselor if you need assistance or have questions concerning this act.

Former 440th Commander retires

Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of the Air Force Reserve Command and former 440th Airlift Wing commander, is retiring June 1, after 33 years of military service.

In a recent interview Sherrard said the thing he'll miss most about leaving the Air Force is the people in blue.

"One of the key things I am most proud of is having the opportunity to work with such great people over the years," he said. "In particular, the NCO corps in the Air Force Reserve is phenomenal. Our NCOs have so much talent and experience. To just have the chance to watch them do what they do is an honor."

Sherrard said reservists understand the great need for their service, which allows the active-duty Air Force to do the work it is tasked to accomplish worldwide.

"We all should take great pride in the essential work we do for the Air Force, allowing the United States to be the world leader it is today and will continue to be in the future," he said.

Thunderbirds fly into Janesville

The Air Force Thunderbird season gears up March 27.

The Thunderbirds is an Air Combat Command unit of eight pilots, four support officers, four civilians and about 120 enlisted airmen.

A Thunderbirds aerial demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The pilots perform about 30 maneuvers during a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about one hour and 15 minutes.

The show comes to Janesville, Wis., June 26.

Servicewomen add diversity to AF strengths

By Capt. Keith Leistekow

There was a time when the thought of women in military service was unheard of. Conventional wisdom had it that men fought wars and women shouldn't be put in harm's way.

"I think this is unbelievable to me – 'It's not worth training you because in six months you will either be pregnant and wanting to get out or you will be finding any excuse why you no longer want to serve,' said Maj. Sue Hoff, 440th Military Equal Opportunity advisor, quoting the first and former female supervisor she had in 1969, the year she enlisted.

"In that year, nobody wanted women (in the services)," said Hoff. "Essentially, the Air Force did not have anything for women to do unless they were nurses."

Hoff served on active duty from 1969-75 prior to joining the Reserve in 1977. She has been a member of the wing since 1997.

The percentage of women in the military in 1969 was only 2 to 3 percent, according to Hoff. Women now comprise 15 percent of the 1.4 million active duty personnel.

Discrimination toward women also was apparent during this timeframe, according to Hoff. "I recall black, female military members having stones thrown at them when they were out in public," said Hoff.

"By the mid-70s, the attitude towards women serving in the military seemed to change," Hoff recalled. "A more professional working

environment emerged where proper introductions were being made of women in the service. There was a sense of being needed and wanted."

"Women (in the military) were sticking around and their careers began to develop," said Hoff. "The service began to see women being promoted into the senior ranks, master sergeants to chiefs."

"Improved training, an increased level of professionalism (toward women) and more career opportunities have allowed women to succeed," said Hoff.

In the Air Force, women tally 19 percent of active duty and 22 percent of Reserve members; 99 percent of AFSCs are open to females. The 440th Airlift Wing counts 19 percent of officers and 18 percent of enlisted members on the distaff side. Within the wing, women are C-130 co-pilots, navigators and loadmasters; command

three groups; head the Reserve Public Affairs staff; and serve in key roles in every unit.

"If a woman is best qualified for a job she will most likely get it," said Hoff of today's Air Force women. "Personally, I feel I have all the same opportunities afforded to me as men do."

The so-called weaker sex has demonstrated that its dedication, commitment and performance are anything but weak. Given the opportunity, women answered the call to serve and have done so with distinction. Diversity ... isn't it great?!

"In that year, nobody wanted women (in the services)," said Hoff. "Essentially, the Air Force did not have anything for women to do unless they were nurses."

*- Maj. Sue Hoff
MEO Adviser*

DIVERSITY: Seeing things from a different perspective.

If anything connotes diversity it's military rank. The 440th Airlift Wing's 1,350 members encompass 15 ranks – nine enlisted, six officer. No general officers are included. Enlisted members comprise 86 percent of membership, officers 14 percent. The most populous rank among the 1,165 enlisted members is technical sergeant – 30 percent; among the 185 officers it's major – 38 percent. Technical sergeants also constitute the largest category among all wing members – 26 percent. Categories with the fewest members are those at the top and bottom of the chart: four colonels, nine airmen basics. Rank, to be sure, denotes a level of achievement. It doesn't speak to a host of unknowns and intangibles. Some people are content to attain staff sergeant; others need to make lieutenant colonel. They take promotion action accordingly. The wing needs – and has – qualified people in all 15 ranks. Whatever one's rank, it's a badge of honor. Diversity ... isn't it great?!

CMSgt. Steven Kohnke (left), Newcomers Flight commander, Amn. Shannon Savage (center), 440th Medical Squadron and Maj. Betsy Schoeller, acting commander, 440th Logistics Readiness Squadron.



DIFFERENT. DISTINCT. DIVERSIFIED.

RECRUITING

Recruiters bring their wares to the units

The following 440th Airlift Wing recruiters are individually assigned to the units identified below to enhance recruiting efforts. Each recruiter is scheduled to make periodic visits during each fiscal year (see below). They also are available upon request to visit a unit and present their recruiting materials, answer general and specific questions regarding the recruiting programs offered, and listen to comments, concerns or suggestions about how the recruiting program can be more effective.

Master Sgt. Robert Flores/800-538-8544
Units assigned: 440th OSF/OG; 440th ALCF;
440th SFS; 95th AS
Scheduled visit: June 5-6

Tech. Sgt. Steven Bender/800-404-5344
Units assigned: 440th CES; 440th AW/MSG;
440th MSS; 440th MDS
Scheduled visit: July 10-11

Master Sgt. Alan Cayer/888-623-8283
Units assigned: 440th AMXS; 440th MXS;
440th MXG; 440th CF
Scheduled visit: Aug. 21-22

Tech. Sgt. Winston Cagadas/800-404-5344
Units assigned: 34th APS; 440th MOF;
440th LRS; 440th SVF
Scheduled visit: May 1-2, Sept. 11-12



Photo by A1C Chris Hibben

Master Sgt. Alan Cayer, 440th Airlift recruiter, speaks to members of the 440th Communications Flight during the unit's commander's call last month.



Wing Auditorium
May 1-2, 9am-3pm



Name: Venigeo Gapastione

Age: 26

Residence: Carol Stream IL

Family: Single

Employment: Sales

Education: Glenbard North High School

Career goal: Undecided, maybe full time military

Military commitment: Enlisted August 2003 in 2FOX1 career field (fuels apprentice).

Recruitment rationale: "I always thought about the military, training and sense of pride you get while in uniform. I attended BMT and technical training school serving as element leader and school house leader respectively. The whole experience was great, meeting new people, handling new responsibilities and learning my Air Force job. It was an experience I will never forget."

Why AFRC: "I stopped in to talk with Tech. Sgt. Steve Bender and he told me about the Air Force Reserve and how it could help me find the things I was looking for.

He explained the whole process to me and was there every step of the way, even after I enlisted we met every month and he helped prepare us for BMT.

I refer anyone interested in the Air Force Reserve to Tech. Sgt. Steve Bender."

440th Airlift Wing
Office of Public Affairs
300 East College Avenue
Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, WI 53207

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